



## Fact Sheet

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# Emergency Water Supply Guidelines for Food Service Establishments

**Restaurants - Food Stores – Schools  
Institutions - Convenience Stores**

These guidelines are for establishments that provide food service to the public. State law (WAC 246-315-120) requires that food service establishment (FSE) owners ensure that their water supply is from a source approved by the Washington State Department of Health (WAC 246-290).

### Procedures During Boil Water Advisory

When a boil water advisory is issued to a water system that supplies a food service establishment, the FSE may only remain open with the authorization of the local health department or district.

### Minimum Requirements

#### ***Shut off:***

- Ice machines
- Drinking fountains
- Produce misters
- Bottled water refill machines

#### ***Discard:***

- Ice made with contaminated water
- Beverages made with contaminated water

***Ice:*** Use packaged ice from approved source

#### ***Use boiled or bottled water for:***

- Drinking
- Cooking
- Food preparation
- Washing produce

#### ***Hand washing:***

- Use antibacterial soap

#### ***Dishwashing options:***

- Commercial high temperature or chemical dishwasher
- Three compartment sink
  1. Hot soapy water
  2. Hot water rinse
  3. Sanitizing rinse – cool water with bleach solution (1 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon water) – followed by air drying completely

#### ***Employee Information:***

- Develop a plan to notify and educate employees about emergency procedures
- Post signs or copies of the water system's health advisory

The local health department or district may impose additional requirements to protect against health hazards during the boil water advisory, such as modifying food preparation steps or prohibiting some menu items.

**These procedures should be followed until notified by the local health department or district, or the state Department of Health.**

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HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER